

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

March 18, 2004

Meeting held at:

City Administration Building
202 “C” Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Board
202 “C” Street, MS 9B
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jim Austin, Chair
Ginny Barnes, Vice Chair
Dan Coffey
Darlene Gould Davies
Kevin Faulconer
Norman Greene
Dan Mazzella (2:30 arrival)
Bob Otile (2:18 arrival)
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Robert Robinson

Members Absent

Faith Baustista

Staff Present

Mike Behan
Charlie Daniels
Bill Deloatch
June Dudas
Ann Hix
Patty Jencks
Mark Marney
Ellen Oppenheim
Sally Pearson
April Penner
Tom Wood

Ms. Faith Bautista gave notice that she would be unable to attend today’s meeting. Ms. Shannon Thomas, Deputy City Attorney, was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Barnes/Mr. Greene

The Minutes of February 19, 2004 were unanimously approved by the Board.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Austin referenced the March 16 memorandum from the Mayor regarding Board reassignments and new assignments, and new Board member, Ms. Aurora Cudal, who will be replacing Ms. Faith Bautista. Mr. Dan Mazzella will chair the newly formed Community Parks I Area Committee with Ms. Olivia Puentes-Reynolds serving as Vice Chair. Mr. Robert Robinson will chair the Community Parks II Area Committee with Mr. Dan Coffey serving as Vice Chair.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Oppenheim reported on the following:

- Spoke with Ms. Cudal and welcomed her as the newest member of the Board. She is scheduled for confirmation by City Council in mid April and should be joining the Park and Recreation Board shortly thereafter.
- A joint meeting of the two new area committees will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 25 in the Balboa Park Club Ballroom. The meeting will discuss the purpose of the new committees as well as providing a brief overview of the City's General Plan Update. Recreation Council policies and procedures will also be discussed.
- Discussed possible dates and times in May to hold a public budget session to discuss the City Manager's FY 2005 budget recommendations. The Board members agreed to meet on May 5 at 6:00 p.m. in Balboa Park. Location to be determined.
- Received a letter from the United Nations Association addressed to the Board members expressing concern about "Earth Day" and the condition in which Balboa Park has been left after the event concluded. Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director, Mike Behan, will be working with the Earth Day organizers to ensure that the park is properly maintained and cleaned afterwards.
- Memorial Skate Park has been open only a short time and it is already proving to be very successful which is evident by how heavily it is being used. County Supervisor Greg Cox has made a donation, from the County's discretionary funds, to pay for monthly passes, skateboards and safety gear for approximately 60 kids at Memorial Skate Park. Park and Recreation staff at Memorial Skate Park,

Memorial Community Park, and Stockton Recreation Center will determine which children will receive the passes and gear.

- The “Chip in for Charity Buick Invitational Program” raised almost \$2,500 to benefit youth camps, senior programs, therapeutic recreation activities and aquatic programs.

- March 20 at 10:00 a.m. is when the new Catalina Water Pump Station in Point Loma will be dedicated. In the process of completing this project, the Water Department joined efforts with the Park and Recreation Department to improve the Point Loma Park and Recreation facility’s parking, which included grading, paving and landscaping the parking lot next to the pump station.

- On March 5th, The New York Times published an article in the travel section about San Diego titled “Thirty Six Hours in San Diego.” The article featured extensive coverage of Balboa Park calling it the “cultural centerpiece” of San Diego and “one of the country’s best urban parks.” In addition, the American Podiatric Medical Association and Prevention Magazine named San Diego as one of the “12 Best Walking Cities in the USA.”

- Ms. Oppenheim announced that June Dudas, Assistant to the Director, has accepted another position within the City and will be leaving at the end of the month. She acknowledged and thanked June for the outstanding job she has done in the Park & Recreation Department and for her support over the past two years.

FRIENDS OF PARKS REPORT

Mr. Wilbur Smith reported that work continues on the upcoming May 8 Golf Tournament. Sponsors and volunteers are still being recruited. The Honorary Chair for the event will be Marti Emerald from Channel 10 News. A consultant has been hired to design a Friends Website which should be up and running in the next few months. Elections will take place this June for six new board members.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

Adoption

101. Japanese Friendship Garden Master Plan Revision, Balboa Park: Approval of the Master Plan Revision

In reply to questions asked by Mr. Coffey, Mr. Charlie Daniels, Park Designer with the Park Planning and Development Division of the Park and Recreation Department, explained that the Japanese Friendship Garden is a leasehold within Balboa Park and as the tenant, the Japanese Friendship Garden Society will be responsible for all capital improvements and maintenance within the garden. They also pay for their

water. Any sewage issues would be addressed at the time a proposed project gets to a more project specific design level. Infrastructure to support any new facility would be investigated, as well as any measures required to improve the conditions of the existing infrastructure, if it was determined there would be an impact. Currently, this project is only at the Master Plan stage

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Faulconer/Ms. Barnes

Mr. Faulconer moved to approve the Japanese Friendship Garden Master Plan Revision. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WORKSHOP: FY 2005 BUDGET

In order to become more informed and better prepared should additional changes and/or reductions be required in the Park & Recreation Department for FY 2005, the Board members, Park & Recreation Director and staff participated in a budget workshop in an effort to categorize and prioritize Park and Recreation core services, which include new parks and open space, programs for seniors, adults, youth, and persons with disabilities, tourism related asset management, health and safety issues, and the protection of physical assets. The budget workshop will continue at the April 15 meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Balboa Park Committee

Mr. Mazzella reported that a special meeting of the Balboa Park Committee has been scheduled for this evening. The Jones & Jones consultants will be providing an updated report on their proposal for Balboa Park.

Central Area Committee

No report.

City Lakes Committee

No report.

Coastal Area Committee

No report.

Design Review Committee

No meeting.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

No report.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Mr. Faulconer reported that over the next few months several special meetings are scheduled to discuss alcohol issues in and around Mission Bay Park. A request to ban alcohol at a neighborhood park that abuts Mission Bay Park will be heard at an upcoming meeting. Members of the Police Department will attend and report on their strategy for the July 4th holiday. Subsequent to that, the Committee will look at the possibility of banning alcohol at Mission Bay Park on July 4th. Alcohol issues at Bayside Walk will also be discussed.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

Mr. Greene reported that the Water Department presented an overview of the Lake Murray Trunk Sewer Line Project that will run underground through a portion of the park. Reports were heard on the progress being made at the Equestrian Center, which will be opening soon, and about the northern part of the park, once owned by General Dynamics, that will be returned to the park system soon.

Northern Area Committee

No report.

Southern Area Committee

No report.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

No report.

Wetlands Advisory

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is: Thursday, April 15, 2004

City Administration Building
Council Committee Room
202 "C" Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Ellen Oppenheim
Staff Representative

EO:sp

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